



DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

News Release

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**HAWAI'I'S SEASONALLY ADJUSTED UNEMPLOYMENT RATE AT
3.3 PERCENT IN APRIL**

**Despite the Abrupt Closures of Two Airlines, Hawai'i Maintains
Relatively Low Unemployment Rate,
Compared to National 5.0 Percent Unemployment**

HONOLULU – The Hawai'i State Department of Labor and Industrial Relations announced today that the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for April was 3.3 percent, an increase of 0.2 percentage point over March's rate of 3.1 percent. Nationally, the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for April was 5.0 percent, a slight decline from 5.1 percent in March.

Over the last six months, Hawai'i's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate has been on average 1.8 percentage points lower than the U.S. seasonally adjusted unemployment rate. In April, there were 641,000 employed and 21,800 unemployed in Hawai'i, for a total seasonally adjusted labor force of 662,800.

State of Hawaii Seasonally Adjusted Labor Force Data			
	<u>Apr 2008</u>	<u>Mar 2008</u>	<u>Apr 2007</u>
Labor Force	662,800	658,050	649,950
Employment	641,000	637,650	633,800
Unemployment	21,800	20,400	16,150

	APR 2008	MAR 2008	APR 2007
STATE	3.3	3.1	2.5
HONOLULU#	3.0	2.7	2.3
HAWAII COUNTY#	4.3	4.1	3.0
KAUAI#	3.2	3.1	2.2
MAUI COUNTY#	3.5	3.3	2.2
Maui Island#	3.4	3.2	2.0
Molokai#	5.1	5.7	6.0
Lanai#	5.1	4.6	2.7
U. S.	5.0	5.1	4.5

non-seasonally adjusted

Industry Payroll Employment

In another measure of employment, total seasonally adjusted nonagricultural jobs decreased over-the-month in April by 6,100 to 624,000. The private industry sectors experiencing notable job losses were Trade, Transportation & Utilities, resulting from the abrupt closure of two air carriers and Construction, due to releasing workers after the completion of some projects.

The increase in Education and Health Services (+200) and other industries helped offset some of the employment declines. From April 2007, the seasonally adjusted job count grew by 4,200 or 0.7 percent with the private sector encompassing nearly 62.0 percent of the increase. Over-the-year, the industries showing prominent job gains included Educational and Health Services (+1,600) and Construction (+800).

Effects of the recent mass layoffs and announced closures of several companies were partially reflected in the April payroll data. Most of the job losses occurred in the air passenger services sector. Meanwhile, Aloha's contract services and cargo division are still operating and are in the process of being transferred under new ownership.

On Moloka'i, the unemployment rate and jobs have not been negatively impacted in April since majority of the Moloka'i Ranch workers are still retained on the payroll until almost the end of May.

"Hawai'i's resilient economy has continued to persevere, maintaining high employment levels while helping to maintain relatively low unemployment," said Darwin L.D. Ching, director of labor and industrial relations. "We remain optimistic that Hawai'i's job market will withstand the recent closures of several high-profile companies, as the Administration continues to implement long-term strategies to transform Hawai'i's economy."

Seasonally Adjusted Non-Ag. Jobs (State)			
SELECTED SERIES:	Apr-08	Mar-08	Apr-07*
NATURAL RESOURCES, MINING AND CONSTRUCTION	39,500	40,000	38,700
TRADE, TRANSPORTATION & UTILITIES	120,300	122,200	121,500
Wholesale Trade	18,500	18,600	18,400
Retail Trade	71,500	71,400	70,300
EDUCATIONAL AND HEALTH SERVICES	74,500	74,300	72,900
Educational Services	15,200	14,900	14,400
Health Care and Social Assistance	59,300	59,400	58,500
LEISURE & HOSPITALITY	109,000	109,300	110,300
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	11,400	11,400	11,800
Accommodation & Food Services	97,600	97,900	98,500
OTHER SERVICES	27,100	27,200	26,300
GOVERNMENT	119,800	124,100	118,200
Federal Government	31,700	31,500	31,700
State Government	69,700	74,200	68,700
Local Government	18,400	18,400	17,800
TOTAL: STATE	624,000	630,100	619,800

❖ **Educational & Health Services (+200)**

This sector increased by 200 jobs from March. Educational Services rose by 300 jobs in private schools in elementary and secondary schools. Health Care and Social Assistance decreased minimally by 100 jobs mainly in individual and family services.

❖ **Other Services (-100)**

This miscellaneous category reported a modest drop, some of which were in automobile repair and maintenance.

❖ **Leisure and Hospitality (-300)**

Leisure and Hospitality posted a 300 job loss. Arts, Entertainment and Recreation recorded no change. The increase in amusement and recreation industries was countered by the decrease in performing arts companies. Accommodation and Food Services constituted the entire drop of 300 jobs mainly in Accommodation as hotels on O'ahu and the neighbor islands released workers.

❖ **Construction (-500)**

Construction experienced losses for a second consecutive month partly resulting from the completion of several construction projects. Most of the reductions occurred in special trade contractors which consist of building equipment contractors and building finishing contractors.

While April's loss does mark two consecutive months of losses in the construction industry, the DLIR does not expect this trend to be long term. According to recent forecasts by the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism (DBEDT), the construction industry should continue to grow, although at a slower pace. The ongoing multi-billion dollar

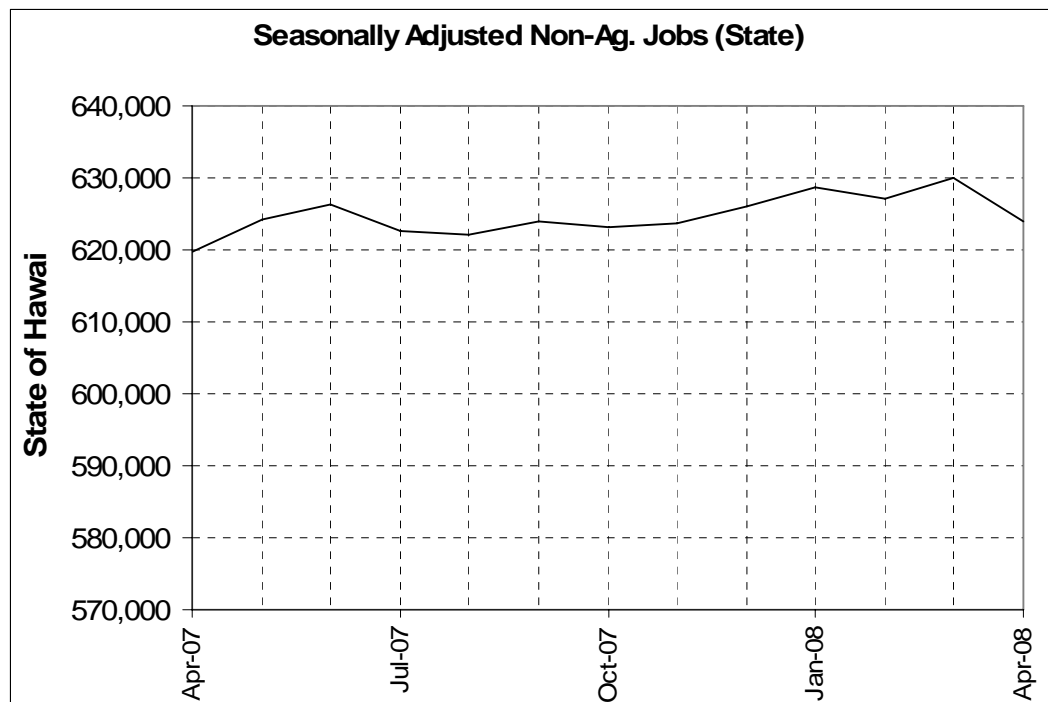
military housing privatization initiative, as well as several existing and new projects in retail development/redevelopment and resort renovations planned over the next few years, will provide support to the construction industry. Since December 2002, this sector has created 12,400 new jobs and has consistently been one of the most stable industries for the State.

❖ **Trade, Transportation, & Utilities (-1,900)**

This major industrial group declined by the largest margin among the private sector after experiencing a significant job gain in March. Retail Trade, which added 100 new jobs, rose for the fourth straight month in clothing & clothing accessories stores and general merchandise. Meanwhile, Wholesale Trade notched down by the same amount in machinery, equipment, and supplies merchant wholesalers. Transportation comprised the bulk of the job loss for this sector predominantly due to the closure of two airlines. Additionally, a major cruise firm reported additional losses in water transportation.

❖ **Government (-4,300)**

Government reported the largest job reduction in April. Federal Government grew by 200 jobs, while Local Government remained virtually unchanged. State Government composed the majority of the decline due to the Department of Education releasing staff during the intersession (spring) break attributing to its year-round transition schedule.



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